



# Machine Readable Archives

CAI  
AK  
-M19

## BULLETIN

ISSN 0821-3658

### New Acquisitions

#### Ottawa in 1878: Land-Use Patterns in a Canadian City

D. James Trotman

The Machine Readable Archives recently acquired two data sets that are associated with D. James Trotman's Master of Arts thesis. The thesis, entitled "Ottawa in 1878: Land-Use Patterns in a Canadian City," was submitted to the Department of Geography, Carleton University, in 1977. The data were cleaned and processed by Geo-Heritage Associates of Ottawa and then forwarded to the Machine Readable Archives on behalf of Mr. Trotman.

Generally, the purpose of the study was to reconstruct the land-use of the city of Ottawa for the time period 1878, by utilizing a number

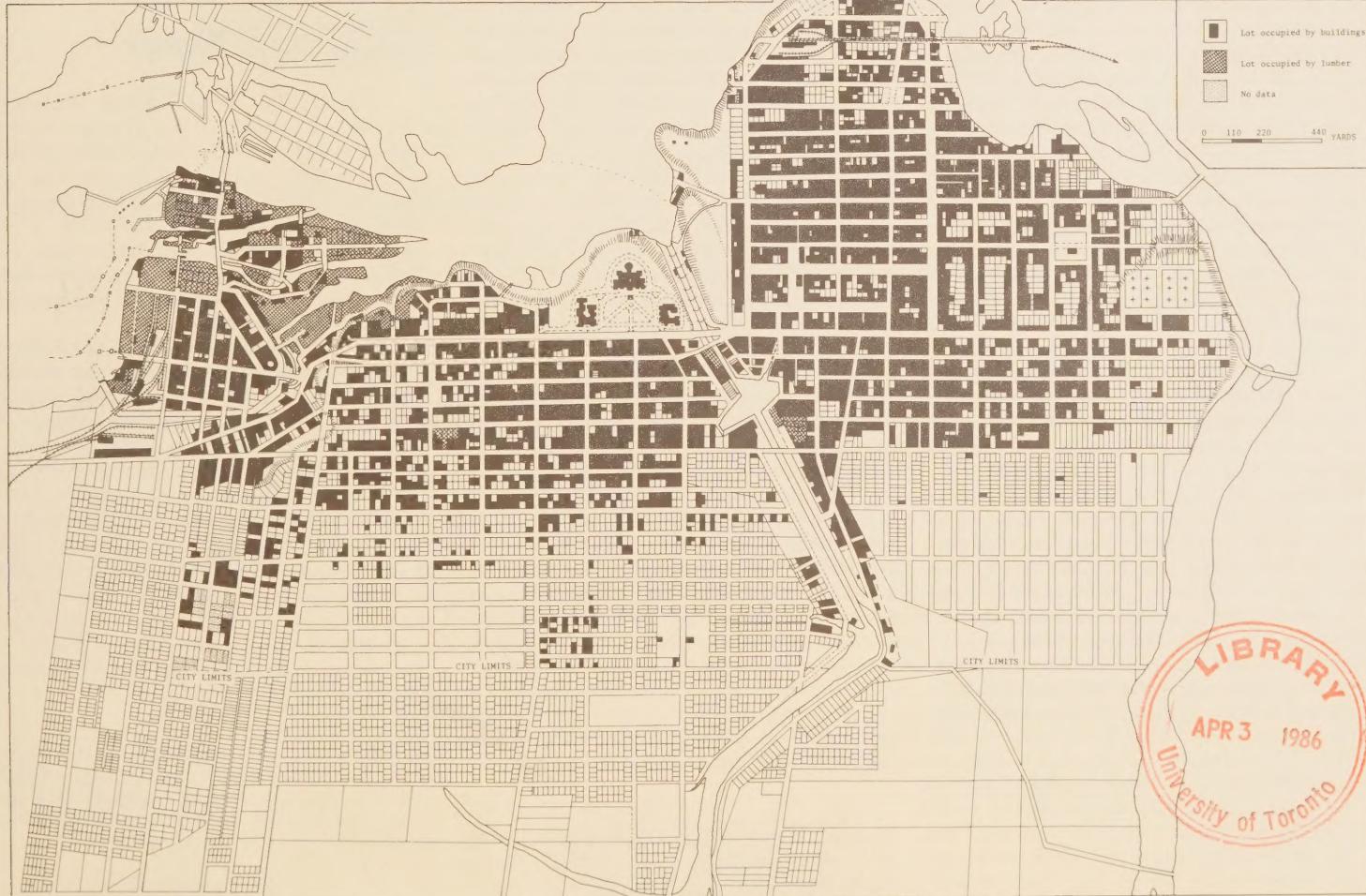
of records found in the Public Archives of Canada, the National Library of Canada, and the Archives of the City of Ottawa. Specifically, the purpose of the thesis was fourfold: (1) to determine if one or more central areas existed in the city of Ottawa during 1878 and to delimit these areas; (2) to describe and explain how various land-use patterns developed — for example, the evolution and formation of the Central Business District, the Residential and Industrial areas, etc.; (3) to determine if there was a vertical land-use dimension prevalent in the city of Ottawa during 1878; and (4) after having determined the nature of land-use, to indicate why variations occurred with respect to the accepted theories of urban structure and morphology.

For the purpose of the study, definitions of land-use have been restricted to the

identification and functional categorization of the Central Business District, Residential and Industrial areas, as well as land set aside for Public and Ancillary uses. Ancillary land-use areas are defined as lands that can be identified or associated with warehouses, sheds, garages and similar structures. As Mr. Trotman states, "the viewpoint taken is explicitly structural and social phenomena are not explicitly analysed." However, the author does allude to the importance of a class structure when examining the nature of the residential areas in 1878 Ottawa.

The thesis traces the historical development of Ottawa to 1878, and then places the city of that time in its proper historical context. The settlement of 'Bytown' and its satellite communities (i.e., Hull, Nepean, etc.) are also briefly

cont'd on page 2



examined. Mr. Trotman also depicts how various transportation networks helped to impede (as in the case of the canal, which acted as a natural barrier) or stimulated the direction of early growth in Ottawa (e.g., the public tramway system). Indeed, the influence of government and how it affected the changing shape of Ottawa is also discussed; that is, the evolution of Ottawa from a military outpost to the establishment of the town as the capital of a new and burgeoning nation.

Working at the city block level, 462 of which have been designated to be within the confines of the 1878 city limits, Mr. Trotman collected information about the size of each city block; the size of all the lots on each city block; the size of every building on each lot, including width, depth and height; the materials used to construct each building; and the function that each structure provided, by floor. For example, one is able to determine if the first floor was a store, whether the second floor was used for storage space and whether the third floor was primarily residential in nature. In addition, monetary values were obtained for each building, as well as financial information about the worth of their accompanying lot. In effect, not only was Mr. Trotman able to dichotomize land and building values, but he was able to determine a land parcel's real total value. Consequently, a total real value figure could be derived for various components of each of the 462 city blocks. This is important because one is able to identify a land value decay curve through distance, which becomes useful when attempting to produce a typology of land-uses. In fact, a series of maps have been produced that correlate geographic location, price, building materials and building height, and are useful in determining the functional characteristics of each city block.

The data described above were obtained from a variety of sources, the most important being H. Brosius' "Bird's Eye View of the City of Ottawa, Province of Ontario, Canada, 1876"; H. Belden & Co., "Map of Ottawa City," which can be found in the *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Carleton (including the City of Ottawa)*; A.S. Woodburn & Co., "Woodburn's City of Ottawa Directory Containing an Alphabetical Directory of the Citizens, Street Directory, Classified Business Directory and a Miscellaneous Directory . . ."; the Assessment Rolls for the City of Ottawa 1876-1877; and, among the most valuable of the sources for an urban-historical land-use study, the Fire Insurance Atlas for Ottawa in 1878. These fire insurance records can be examined in the National Map Collection, Public Archives of Canada. The author was required to use the Assessment Rolls for 1876-1877 because those for the specific time period under study were destroyed in the fire at City Hall in 1931.

Anyone interested in the availability of these sources is directed to R.J. Hayward "Sources for Urban Historical Research: Insurance Plans and Land Use Atlases," *Urban Historical Review*, No. 1, 1973, pp. 2-9; and, of course, the work of Mr. Trotman.

Contemporary social scientists who are involved in the study of contemporary phenomena have become accustomed to either creating or receiving data in machine readable form. Those who have an interest in studying the historical dimension, however, are not so fortunate because there is still a relative lack of historical information that has been made machine readable. With the acquisition of the "Ottawa in 1878 . . ." land-use project, it is hoped that those interested in the city from the perspective of a number of disciplines, and from the viewpoint of history, will be able to devote the time they need to adequate conceptualization, analysis and ultimately theory formulation. The savings in time, related to the actual creation of the data sets, should in itself promote the use of this information. In addition, however, the data sets have certain unusual qualitative features. First of all, they are derived from the integration of a number of major sources, rather than from a single source. Secondly, unlike the original sources from which they are derived, these data have been systematically geocoded and are therefore locatable. Those people who are familiar with the information contained in the Fire Insurance Atlases and the Assessment Rolls will appreciate the fact that it took many months to compile this information into a single source.

These data can be analysed at two levels of scale. The first data set consists of 7,825 observations, which individually represent buildings that existed in the city of Ottawa during 1878. The second data set contains specific information about the 462 city blocks that existed during the same time frame. Due to the nature of the information contained in the files, they will be of interest to the architect (city morphology, land-use and building material information), urban sociologist, urban and historical geographer, as well as the economic and social historian.

This acquisition is the first in our 'Canadian City' series. It was deliberately acquired to respond to the needs of the social science community and, in particular, those interested in urban geography, urban sociology and urban growth. Use of the term community implies a life for one another and the series will only be as good as the community's contribution to it. Those researchers who have appropriate research materials to contribute to the series should contact David L. Brown in the Machine Readable Archives Division.

The preceding was written by David L. Brown, MRA, in consultation with Dr. John Clarke, Geo-Heritage Associates.

## CUIO Files — An Update

In Volume 3 - Number 1 of the *Bulletin*, the acquisition of a number of surveys from the Canadian Unity Information Office was described. At the time of the acquisition, the documentation indicated that these data files were SPSS files and could be easily processed. However, modifications to the files had been made and no documentation existed. Therefore, the processing of these files has taken far longer than originally anticipated. Of the 40 files acquired, the following are available to researchers:

British Columbia Public Issues Survey, August 1983

British Columbia Public Issues Survey, December 1983

CROP Poll, September 1983

CROP Poll, 1984

Western Urban Attitudes Survey, 1983

## News and Notes

Chapter IX of the Anglo American Cataloguing Rules is in the process of being revised to accommodate microcomputer software. For data archives and libraries who use the rules to describe their holdings, it would be advisable to contact a representative of the Canadian Committee on Cataloguing. As changes to these rules could affect terminology being used, it would be beneficial to provide as much input as possible.

In Volume 1 - Number 2 of the *Bulletin*, a request was made for information on machine readable data focusing on women. If anyone has information about such data files, please contact the Machine Readable Archives.

The Leisure Studies Databank at the University of Waterloo will be updating its *Catalogue of Holdings*. For more information, write to Terry Stewart, Leisure Studies Databank, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1.

The last two articles in this issue were written by Sue Gavrel, MRA.

Anyone wishing information about the *Bulletin* may write to: Public Archives of Canada, Machine Readable Archives Division, Documentation and Public Service Section, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3, or phone (613) 993-7772.

La Léisure Studies Database de l'Université de Waterloo va metre à jour son catalogue des fonds. Pour de plus amples renseignements, écrire à Terry Stewart, Leisure Studies Centre à Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1.

Les deux derniers articles ont été redigés par Sue Gavrel de la DAO.

Pour obtenir des renseignements au sujet du Bulletin, écrire à l'adresse suivante : Archives publiques du Canada, Division des archives régionales, 395, rue Wellington, Ottawa (Ontario), K1A 0N3, ou téléphoner au (613) 993-7772.

On est en train de réviser le Chapitre IX des Règles de catalogage anglo-américaines afin de tenir compte du micrologiciel. Il est conseillé aux informations et aux archivées de dommages décrire leurs fonds de contacteur un représentant du Comité canadien de catalogage. Étant donné les modifications apportées aux règles pourraient changer la terminologie employée, il serait utile que les intéressés fassent connaître leurs points de vue.

Dans le numéro 2, volume 1, du Bulletin, nous invitons nos lecteurs à nous fourrir des renseignements sur les fichiers de données ordinolinguistiques portant sur les femmes. Les personnes qui possèdent des informations sur ces fichiers sont priées de contacter les Archives nationales du Canada.

## Notes et nouvelles

Sondage CROP, 1984

Sondage CROP, septembre 1983

Sondage sur les attitudes en milieu urbain dans l'Ouest canadien, 1983

Sondage sur des questions d'interêt public en Colombie-Britannique, août 1983

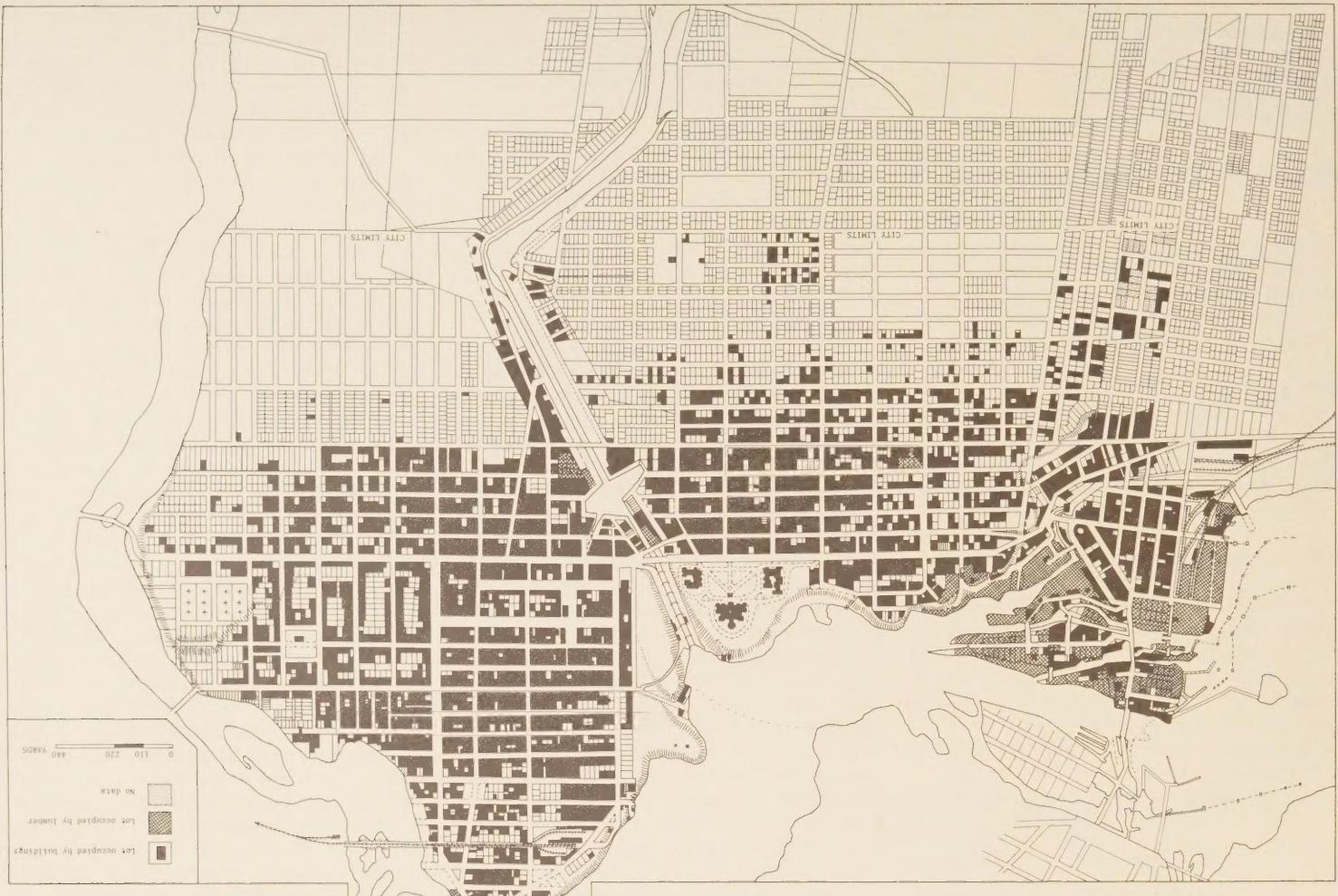
Sondage sur des questions d'interêt public en Colombie-Britannique, décembre 1983

## Mise à jour sur les frichiers du CUC

Ces données permettent deux types d'analyses. Le premier ensemble de données se compose de 7 825 observations, qui décrivent chaque une les variables qui existaient dans la ville d'Ottawa en 1878. Le second ensemble concerne les variables qui existaient dans la ville de 1878, mais que le géographe urbaine constitue l'observation. Le deuxième ensemble de données se compose de 462 îlots qui existaient dans la nature des données continues et qui ont été regroupés en îlots de 1 km<sup>2</sup>. Chaque îlot contient un ensemble de 1878 variables qui décrivent les variables qui existaient dans la ville de 1878. Ces deux types de renseignements sur les îlots qui existaient dans les îlots qui existaient dans la ville de 1878, mais que le géographe urbaine constitue l'observation. Les îlots qui existaient dans la nature des données continues et qui ont été regroupés en îlots de 1 km<sup>2</sup>.

per période à Létude futur détruits en 1931 dans l'incendie de l'Hôtel de Ville. Toute personne désirent connaître ces sources est priée de se reporter à R.J. Hayward, "Sources for Urban Historical Research: Insurance Plans and Land Use Atlases," *Urban Historical Review*, no. 1, p. 2-9; et bien sûr, à Létude de Totman.

et la situe ensuite dans son propre contexte historique. Il se penche également brièvement sur l'établissement de « Bytown » et de ses villes satellites (c.-à-d. Hull, Nepean, etc.). M. Troutman décrit aussi comment diverses causes du canal, qui a fait fonction d'obstacle réseaux de transport ont gagné (comme dans le cas du canal, qui a été élargi) comme dans le cadre d'un programme d'expansion d'Ottawa tout naturel (p. ex., les tramways publics). Il traite aussi de l'influence du gouvernement et de son rôle dans le changement de vocation d'Ottawa, qui était à l'origine une station militaire et qui devient par la suite la capitale du nouveau pays à l'état embryonnaire.



suite à la page 2

Ottawa en 1878.

Volume 1878

soit des terrains qui peuvent étre assimilés ou associés à des entrepôts, à des remises, à des garages et à des constructions parentées. Come dit M. Troutman « le point de vue adopté est nettement structural, et les phénomènes sociaux ne sont pas étudiés expliquemment ». Toutefois, l'autre fait allusion à l'importance de la structure des classes sociales lorsqu'il écrit : « La nature des autorités résidentielles à l'intérieur de la ville détermine la nature des autorités résidentielles à l'intérieur de la ville ».

des théories en vigueur en ce qui concerne la structure et la morphologie urabées.

Cette étude avait pour objet général de reconstruire, à l'aide de plusieurs documents transmis aux Archives ordinaires pour établir le titre des domaines et les enseignements au sein d'organisations telles que la firme Geo-Heritage Associates d'Ottawa et la firme Géographique de l'Université Carleton en 1977. La ville de Ottawa en 1878 : Land-Use Patterns in a Canadian City », a été soumis au Département de géographie de l'Université Carleton en 1977. James Tritman, Ce mémoire, qui intitule « Ottawa in 1878 : Land-Use Patterns in a Canadian City », a été soumis au Département de géographie de l'Université Carleton en 1977. Tritman, James, « Ottawa in 1878 : Land-Use Patterns in a Canadian City », a été soumis au Département de géographie de l'Université Carleton en 1977. Tritman, James, « Ottawa in 1878 : Land-Use Patterns in a Canadian City », a été soumis au Département de géographie de l'Université Carleton en 1977.

D. James Rotman

## Nouvelles acquisitions

ISSN 0821-3658

BULLETIN

Hiver 1986  
Vol. 3 - n° 4

Canada

3 1761 115504102



# Archives ordinolinguæ

Archives publiques Canada

